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Dear Friend,

The House just passed the Senate health care bill, sending it to the President for his signature. Over the past eight months, I have listened carefully to my constituents' concerns in town hall meetings across California's Third District, in tele-town hall forums, in reading your e-mails, and looking through e-newsletter surveys. On the basis of this input, the majority of my constituents want health care reform measures that provide and protect accessible, affordable, personalized, and quality care. However, they do not believe that the Senate bill will accomplish this. I agree with them, and therefore voted against the Senate bill.

The Senate bill is **costly and ultimately unsustainable**, creating a new \$938 billion entitlement. Its drafters say it is "paid for" but have engaged in all manner of budget gimmicks that would make Bernard Madoff blush, such as including ten years of tax revenue to pay for only six years of benefits. The bill includes new taxes and penalties, special deals for certain states at the expense of other states, all the while doing nothing to decrease the cost of health insurance premiums. It does nothing to address the cost of health care delivery in this country.

The Senate bill virtually **guarantees that many**Americans will have to forfeit their existing coverage, contrary to the President's promise that everyone who likes their current health care plan can keep it. Under the Senate proposal, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that as many as nine million people who are enrolled in employer-based plans now will have to find some other way to get health care coverage.

The Senate bill **imposes a one-size-fits-all approach** to health insurance. Congress will now dictate the types of insurance plans that can be purchased. Many popular health plans, including Health Savings Accounts that allow individuals to pay for health care services with pre-tax dollars, will be limited under the bill. The bill forces all Americans to purchase government mandated coverage, regardless of their individual needs and preferences.

The Senate bill inflicts heavy tax burdens on small

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businesses and families at a time when we need to do what we can to foster job growth today. And we need to ensure that changes we make to our health care system do not undermine the prospects for sustainable, long-term economic growth.

I have sought to work with my colleagues across the aisle to enact meaningful health care reform measures supported by the American public. When a bill to repeal the anti-trust immunity for the health insurance industry came before the House, we passed the legislation 406-19 in a strong showing of bipartisan support. It was my hope that the Majority would end its insistence on a purely partisan health care bill and pass meaningful health care reform proposals that would benefit Americans in the short and long term. However, the House Leadership made clear tonight that it wants to pursue an entirely partisan path. The only bipartisanship that came out of Congress tonight was reflected in the vote against the Senate bill.

After a long day, and an even longer fight, I remain committed to making your voice heard in the U.S. Capitol.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Lungren Member of Congress

Any comments?					
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Congressmen Lungren periodically sends e-mail newsletters to constituents of the 3rd District to inform them of issues before the Congress and provide generally helpful information. If you would like to unsubscribe, you are free to do so here. If you unsubscribe you will no longer receive Congressman Lungren's emails.

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